

Application No. 09/936,930

Art Unit 1771

June 8, 2004

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and

Submission with RCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for removal of a solvent-containing ~~substance~~, substance by sticking to and peeling off from an article to be cleaned, the sheet comprising a substrate and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, excluding a foaming pressure sensitive adhesive layer, formed at least on one side of the substrate,

wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprises an adhesive of either (A) or (B):

(A) an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising a base polymer formed by a base monomer of 40% to 98% by weight, a comonomer of 0% to 50% by weight, and a functional-group-containing monomer of 0.5% to 15% by weight of the total monomer components or

(B) a rubber pressure-sensitive adhesive selected from natural rubber pressure-sensitive adhesives, styrene-butadiene copolymers, polyisobutylene, and styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers;

Application No. 09/936,930

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wherein said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer absorbs 5 g/m² or more of a solvent contained in the substance to be removed when the pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet is immersed in the solvent for 1 second, and wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet after absorbing 5g/m² of the solvent has a tackiness of 3 ~~cN/25-mm~~ cN/25-mm or more as determined by a method in conformity with Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) Z 0237.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for removal of a solvent-containing ~~substance~~, substance by sticking to and peeling off from an article to be cleaned, the sheet comprising a substrate and a pressure sensitive adhesive layer formed at least on one side of the substrate,

wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprises an adhesive of either (A) or (B):

(A) an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising a base polymer formed by a base monomer of 40% to 98% by weight, a comonomer of 0% to 50% by weight, and a functional-group-containing monomer of 0.5% to 15% by weight of the total monomer components or

(B) a rubber pressure-sensitive adhesive selected from natural rubber pressure-sensitive adhesive, styrene-butadiene copolymers, polyisobutylene, and styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers;

Application No. 09/936,930

Art Unit 1771

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Submission with RCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

wherein said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer absorbs 5 g/m² or more of a solvent contained in the substance to be removed when the pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet is immersed in the solvent for 1 second, and wherein no stain is observed in a stainless steel plate (a SUS 430BA plate) by visual inspection when the pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet after absorbing 5 g/m² of the solvent is stuck to the stainless steel plate by a reciprocating motion of a 2-kg rubber roller and is peeled off from the stainless steel plate.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for removal of a solvent-containing substance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7,~~ claim 2 or 3, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer before use has a tackiness of from 1 to 400 cN/25-mm as determined by a method in conformity with JIS Z 0237.

9-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for removal of a solvent-containing substance according to claim 20, 2 or 3, wherein said acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprises ~~a~~ the polymer

Application No. 09/936,930

Art Unit 1771

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in adhesive (A) obtained by polymerizing a the monomer mixture, ~~comprised of from 40% to 98% by weight of a base monomer for imparting adhesion, from 0% to 50% by weight of a comonomer for imparting cohesiveness and from 0.5% to 15% by weight of a functional-group-containing monomer, where~~ and

wherein the base monomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of acrylic C₂-C₁₀ alkyl esters,

the comonomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, alkyl methacrylates, vinyl esters, styrenic monomers, and acrylonitrile, and

the functional-group-containing monomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of carboxyl group containing monomers, acid anhydride group containing monomers, hydroxyl group containing monomers, epoxy group containing monomers, amido group containing monomers, and amino group containing monomers.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for removal of a solvent-containing substance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7,~~ claim 2 or 3, wherein said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprises a pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer and a crosslinking agent in the amount of from 1 to 30 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer.